



ABACUS ADOPTS TWO NEW VICES

VICES TRIUMPH: The two Vice Presidencies were filled by acclamation at the September meeting. **Charles Cherry**, and **Warren Lorente** were named 8-Bit and ST Vice Presidents, respectively. (as opposed to respectfully--recall petitions for VP Lorente will be available at the Oct. meeting after everyone has had the opportunity to read his article in this issue. His name may or may not be on it but the style is unmistakable. For you out-of-towners, the "look and feel" are those of a local gossip columnist, Herb Caen. Thanks to Publishing Partner and some new fonts, Warren has got the parody down pat.) As for Charles, I guess that newsletter editing is not enough to keep him busy. If "burnout" leads to dropout then these guys must have "burnin"--and we are the better for it!

LOST, ONE DISK LIBRARIAN: Alas the bad news is that we lost an 8-bit Disk Librarian, **Tom Tucker**, who has turned out some superb disks during his short tenure. He and his family are returning to Oklahoma. He will be sorely missed. We need someone to carry on. **Tony Martinez** will continue to maintain the library and copy the disks. All that is needed is to put the Disk of the Month together. Please burnin to this job. Call 750-3483.

A HARD DISK FOR THE REST OF US: I will cut short the ramblings to present my solution to the high cost of storage. At the bottom of the page is a diagram for slightly

Meetings

Next Meeting: Sat, OCTOBER 3, 1987

November Meeting: Sat. Nov. 7, 1987

December Meeting: Sat. Dec. 5, 1987

800/XL/XE 10:00 - 1:00 ST 12:00 - 3:00

19th Ave Diner, 19th Ave & Lincoln, San Francisco

PLEASE Do not park in the Diner's lot

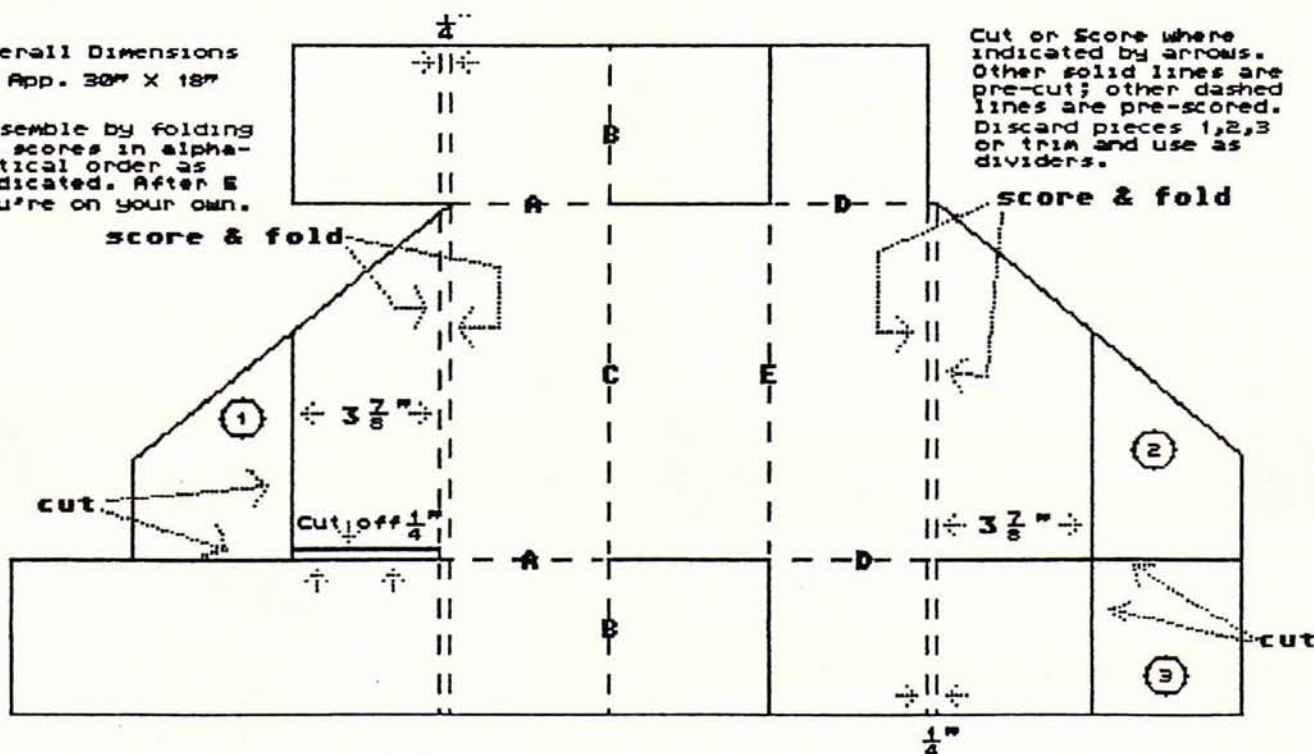
modifying a generic magazine file to create 64 megs of storage. All you have to do is to make a few cuts with a sharp knife, make four scores, fold, assemble, and add 80, double sided, extended format 3 1/2" disks. Total cost: \$.55 to \$1.50. (Disks not included.) The boxes stack, occupy little space--no bulky plastic tops, and even the scraps can be used as dividers.

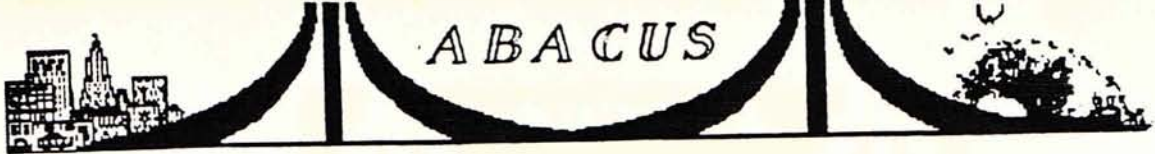
Storage Without the Price A Disk Box for 80 3 1/2" disks

Made from a generic magazine file (for magazines 12" or higher & with 4" storage width). Arvey's often has them on sale for \$.55. Files come flat and pre cut and scored as shown. You must make 5 more cuts and 4 scores as indicated.

Overall Dimensions
App. 30" X 18"

Assemble by folding
on scores in alpha-
betical order as
indicated. After E
You're on your own.





NEWSLETTER CONSTRUCTION SET

by Charles Cherry

RETURNING TO MY ROOTS

Well, the ST is gone. I sold it after using it for only three months. That seems to be the only way to break even in the computer game, resell everything after a couple of months. Even so, the street price for a 1040ST color system dropped from \$850 to \$789 while I owned one.

I'm happy to have the 130XE back in the center of my desk. The ST did not offer me that much more, it was not noticeably faster than the XE. That's because the programs are so much bigger and more complex, they take just as long to load and only occasionally run faster. For example, although the 68000 processor in the ST is much more powerful and faster than the 6502 in the XE, the XE moves less than 1K of data to scroll the screen (in some cases only two bytes), the ST has to move 32K. Also, there is the "push it to the limit" phenomenon. No matter what computer you have, your favorite programs are going to be those which stretch the limits of your machine; those which would really run better on a bigger, faster machine. Of course, on the bigger machine, you would want even more complex programs.

The best examples of this are CAD-3D and Publishing Partner. If these were implemented on an XE they would literally take hours to recalculate each change. On the ST, they take seconds. However, they take many seconds and I was quickly wishing for a 68020 machine running at about 20 megs.

All of that is a not very clear way of saying that the XE does everything I need a computer to do, and it does it well. I don't yet need the power of an ST and having invested so much time, money, and learning on the 8-bit system, I'm not ready to toss it onto the scrap heap of progress. So, just as I was willing to skip the 8086/8088 (IBM) generation, I'm willing to skip the 68000 (ST, Amiga, Mac) generation. When high-speed multi-tasking, low-cost read-write optical disks, and battery backed-up mega memories arrive in earnest, I'll invest the time, money, and intellectual effort in the future. Meanwhile, the little Atari is still the fabulous machine that it was three years ago. The fact that there's something flashier cannot change that. Besides, Advan BASIC is more fun than GFA BASIC.

CASSETTE LIBRARY

We now have a cassette library(!) Some might think that we're about six years late, and they are probably right. The problem has always been that no one wanted to do the time consuming and error-prone copying.

We've got around that by ignoring it. Our new cassette library is a lending library. As such, it is not limited to public domain programs, but contains everything we can get our hands on. The library works like this: I bring a cardboard box full of cassettes to the monthly meetings. You

made through the box and take the ones you want. Bring back when you tire of them. No sign-out, no paper-work, no hassle. No guarantees.

If you have cassettes in the back of a drawer somewhere, bring them in and toss them in the box. They have no resale value and make lousy audio tapes.

1st XLEnt WORD PROCESSOR 2.1

As many of you know, I like the 1st XLEnt Word Processor and I sent XLEnt a six page letter (single spaced) with bug reports and suggestions to make a good WP better. Well, they adopted a couple of my suggestions and fixed some bugs. Unfortunately, they introduced some new ones in the centering command (sigh). It's not the masterpiece I had envisioned, but it is very competent. If you only use a WP occasionally (say once or twice a week), 1st XLEnt is the best choice for you.

If you are a power user, the icons will slow you down. You'll be happier with TextPro, Atariwriter+, or PaperClip (the program you love to hate). That's the last I will say about WPs for at least six months. I promise.

FEELING dBASED

I had reason last month to explore dBASE II/III. I was considering writing a program using it. I was shocked.

dBASE has been the standard for data base programs since I started fooling with computers 6 or 7 years ago. I had expected a powerful, sophisticated, stimulating data base environment. Instead I found a clumsy, buggy, hostile, almost unusable program. No self-respecting Atari user would have accepted such garbage if it had shown up on our system. After all, we objected to the reasonably straight-forward and somewhat elegant Data Perfect.

If this is an example of "serious business software," we didn't miss anything by not having CP/M and MS-DOS. I hereby make a promise to myself. I will never try to find out what WordStar was all about. The best I can say is that dBASE III+ has finally reached a threshold of usability and can be considered an acceptable program.

MAC YEARNINGS

Apple may have made the right decision when they permitted Data Pacific to market the Magic Sac (the Mac emulator for the ST). Seems that ST owners are getting hooked on the elegance of the Mac operating system and also on the library of Mac software. I hear the ST feels a little primitive by comparison. As Christmas approaches, some of our ABACUS members have visions of Macs dancing in their heads. Are you listening Atari? You'd better get those blitters out the door and fulfill some of your other promises, or you're going to lose your installed base.



THE CP/M OF THE FUTURE

Eric Clausen and I were discussing the incredible deals available on MS-DOS clones. It seems that Atari has missed the window of opportunity for the Atari PC. It's even hard to justify the "Power Without the Price" of the ST when you can get a clone with a 20 meg hard disk for less than a monochrome 1040ST. It sounds too good to be true, and it is. When OS-2 comes out in six months or so (Microsoft is as bad about deadlines as Atari), all of those clones will join the scrap heap of progress. Only 80286 machines (ATs and up) will be allowed to play in the new game. Many experts say that there are so many clones out there that there will always be an MS-DOS. Seems I heard that in '83, Eric coined the phrase and it's a beauty: "MS-DOS is the CP/M of the future."

ATARIS ON THE SCRAP HEAP

The Atari 400/800/XL/XE has also joined the scrap heap of progress. Computer Shopper magazine has dumped us into a "Classic Computers" section with the Timex/Sinclair, the TI 99/4A, and other historical oddities.

It's not a great loss since they had the worst coverage of the magazine. Articles were trivial and often inaccurate. I can't imagine how bad I feel about this.

ATARI DELIVERS

To end on a positive note, I saw the Atari 1200 baud modem on the shelf at PC Options. Now you have no excuse. Get into telecommunications today.

BARGAIN OF THE MONTH

Printers. Now there's a good selection for under \$200, even under \$150. I am truly amazed.

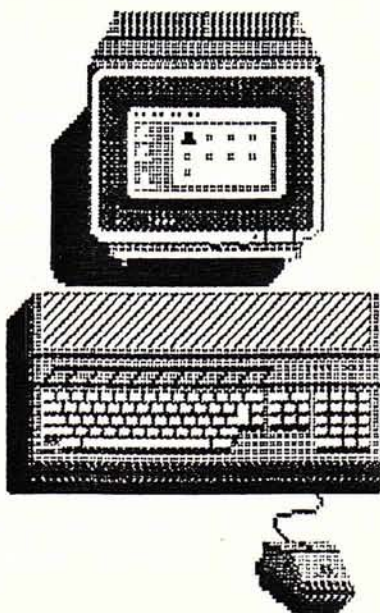


FIG MEETING

The Forth Interest Group will have its ninth annual convention in San Jose November 13-14. (Is that the Forth ninth convention or the ninth Forth convention?) The convention program "... will present the broad picture and Evolution (sic) of Forth featuring the founders, writers, programmers and vendors who will give us their views on how Forth has evolved and where Forth is going." Some Epson QX-10 owners could make some comments on that. For those of you who are not familiar with Forth, it is an unusual language in which some of the most original programs have been written. And almost debugged.

I should not make fun of Forth programmers. We look just as strange to them as they look to us. The convention is at the Red Lion Inn and cost \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. The price includes all conference sessions and (I think) both days. Call FIG at (408)277-0668 for more information.

FAIRE FOOTNOTE

Our esteemed president, Bill Zinn, picked up some great publicity for us at the West Coast Computer Faire. The July issue of Random Access, the Faire's newspaper, had the following in a section titled "Big Names and Big Ideas." Random Access goes to tens of thousands of computer users around the world. Good on ya, Bill.

As he showed *Random Access* around the Abacus (Atari Bay Area Computer Users Society), Bill Zinn talked about his task heading the organization, whose members include users of the Atari 8-bit 800 and 16-bit ST computers.

Half and half

"Half the audience at a meeting are new users, and half are hackers. We continually have to stop to ask whether everyone understands." Both groups get along, he said, and the society has enjoyed better support since Jack Tramiel took over the company.

"Jack Tramiel has treated us better than any CEO of the old Atari," said Zinn. The old Atari's idea of a user group, he said, was a "once-a-year 'thou-shalt-not-pirate' lecture."

Zinn wouldn't speculate on wily Tramiel's next moves, but predicted "the 0.5M, 1M STs will be the 'el cheapos' of next year."



Reprinted from The Sourcerer's apprentice, Summer 1986
The Michigan Atari General Information Conference (MAGIC), Warren

Reprinted from the STATUS Newsletter, March 1987
STATUS, Virginia Beach, VA

DOS & Your Printer

Atari Software For Young Children

By Jim Parker

Shortly after I purchased my Atari computer system approximately two years ago, I began seeing software for young children. I had my two year old daughter Adrian in mind. Her mother was in the process of teaching Adrian her alphabet, numbers, and reading children's books to her. I, wanting to get the most out of my new investment (my 130 XE) purchased "Early Games for Young Children" by Springboard Software.

I was immediately surprised and impressed. Adrian became very attracted to the computer and the game. She learned to turn on the power strip, load the program in the disc drive, turn the computer on while holding down the option key for a binary load. She learned to select the game she wanted to play, and play the games. She learned how to handle the disc properly, put it away in the disc file, and turn off the computer system.

At this age children can easily be underestimated. They are very curious and able to learn very quickly. The computer software teaches them many things, while making it fun to learn.

While playing "Early Games" your child will learn to identify shapes and letters, add and subtract numbers, draw creatively, say the alphabet and type his or her own name. The colorful games teach your child many computer basics and the picture menu makes it easy for children to select and play games without adult supervision.

Adrian is now four years old, and has continued to keep her interest in the computer. I didn't stop with "Early Games", I kept on buying children's software. Joe Hootman found some "Sesame Street" programs on sale and sold them to me some time back. Thank you Joe, these are two of the best children's software programs I have in my library. These programs, "Letter-Go-Round" and "Astro-Grover", by CBS Software are a must for your young children. These programs have keyboard overlays that cover the keyboard made of plastic, with painted colorful characters and keys pertaining to the game. This eliminates the unnecessary keys, which would confuse your youngster. The music is very good and the graphics are excellent. This helps hold the child's interest. I also recommend "Big Bird's Special Delivery", "Ernie's Magic Shapes", and "Dr. Seuss Fix Up Mix Up Puzzler".

Have you ever needed to send set-up commands to your printer while in DOS (DUP.SYS)? Well, instead of going to Basic, do it from the DUP menu.

Use the Copy file command and copy from the screen editor to the printer: C (return) E:P:

This opens a channel to the printer and allows you to type to the screen, the information is entered into a buffer when you hit return and does nothing until you "send" the file. When finished entering commands, press CTRL 3. This process allows you to change your printer parameters the same as an immediate command from Basic. Don't use the LPRINT and CHR\$() format. Use the escape-key sequence--it's more efficient and faster. If the command requires the value 27 (escape-key), then press the escape-key twice. You will see escape-key character appear on the screen.

As an example (on the Epson), the decimal codes for changing the printer font to condensed is 27,15. Press escape twice and CTRL 0 (not zero). If you look in your basic reference manual in appendix C, you will find the ATASCII Character Set with decimal and hexadecimal values. The heart graphics character is the result of holding down the CTRL key and pressing the comma key, its decimal value is 0 (zero). CTRL A = 1, CTRL Z = 26.

Have you ever wanted your program listings to be printed at least an inch from the papers edge so you could punch holes in it to put it in a binder? Here's the Epson solution: escape twice, small letter L, and CTRL L sets the left-most column on the printer at 12 for a one inch margin. CTRL R would set it at 18, and you would have a 1.5" margin.

All this from DUP, and you didn't have to go to Basic to do it! You can also print those .DOC files by copying them to the printer: C D:1.DOC,P: . This will copy them all to the printer. This will copy any text files, as well. If you don't have a printer yet (shame!), you may copy them to the screen by using E instead of P: .

Trouble at Mayhem Villa by Gerry Poornell

(Editors Note: This article arrived in the Jersey Atari Computer Society's mailbox last April 1!)

Welcome to Mayhem Villa for another installment of that never ending investigation of how I can get my hands on free hardware, software and, at the very same time, simultaneously write four fiction books and one encyclopedia all with the simple little word processor that I'm typing like hell in the hopes of getting as rich selling software as that kid did with Choplifter.

It has been a very exciting month here at the Villa. Our old standby computer, Fido, went to the dogs. It was really something to see. One minute I'm typing away at my usual five words per minute speed, and the next minute the screen goes blank and a fiendish voice, speaking through my Blaupunkt amplifier and Bose speakers (which happen to be hooked through my Sony compact disk to the computer) says, "Ha, ha! I have your words trapped inside the computer and you can't get them out." Needless to say, I was upset. This was the last chapter of the second novel, which could also serve as the section from LAR to LEY in the encyclopedia. What was I to do?

Of course, I thought, I must call Zeke at once! Good old Zeke Bleispiel is the only one who knows how to handle Fido, having raised it from a pup. It was Zeke who installed Fido's TAIL (Total-Algorithmic Intelligence Loop) which made it possible to Fido to communicate with his Master Disk. That is, I mean "Its" Master Disk. We do have a way of anthropomorphisizing around here, don't we? Anyway, Zeke came right over and, can you believe it, found the problem with only one call to Will Demonmatch in California. The problem was with Will's WD-40 board, which Fido had carried faithfully for two years now. The breebesnap module had frugulated, causing the pull-up transistor to go into fibrillation. As my old pal Marvin used to say, "They sure as hell don't make 'em like they used to." Marvin was fond of saying that, and he was usually right, having spent four summers after high school with the Mescalera Indian Wild West Show, where he got a degree in Philosophy and Nuclear Engineering. I sure do miss that old varmint. And I sure do miss my Westinghouse no-frost refrigerator with 14 cubic feet of storage capacity and a separate temperature control for the vegetable drawer (not to mention a built-in egg poacher).

As you can see, the month got off on a downer. However, the next day I flew out to Fremont, Nebraska for the annual convention of Word Processor and Fruit Cake Lovers. My son, Ivan,

brought along his terrific carrot cake recipe and I brought along Margie, our portable computer with lint remover attachment. As Ivan drove our borrowed Dodge Caravan with 2.2 liter engine, air conditioning, electric door locks and heavy duty suspension, I was able to plug old Margie into the cigarette lighter and write several paragraphs for a new article tentatively titled "Is Divorce Legal on Ring World?"

The convention itself was, I'm sad to report, a disaster. Stephan Jokes, ex-president of Lemon Computer Company, failed to show up to deliver the keynote address. It seems he was caught typing to transport an Atari ST computer across a state line. You recall, don't you, that the ST has been banned in 42 states due to its low price and high quality, thus putting the rest of the computer industry out to pasture. I, of course, got one of the first models and I'm sure you read my review of three months ago, in which I said, "Watch out IBM, Atari is about to make computing an essential part of every household in America. At the cost of less than a loaf of bread." (I really can turn a phrase, can't I?) And was I ever frosted when the Medford Daily News reported that right before that review appeared in print, a Ferrari appeared at my door, with the license plate that had on it "IM4 ATARI". Pure coincidence, I say. And so does Ivan, who worked his way through college making Pascal flavored ice cream in the electrical engineering lab.

And would you believe what happened when we arrived back at Mayhem Villa? There piled in front of the Andersen triple insulated windows was a bunch of boxes containing all manner of software and hardware for us to try out, review, copy and sell to our friends and then give away as a tax deduction. Let me tell you, it felt like Christmas in March! We haven't had time to even unpack all the boxes as I write this column, let alone review the products. There's this game sure to be a best seller written by Art Poornell (my brother, but that doesn't influence my opinion in the least). It is the best thing I have ever seen for a micro. The colors are awesome. (I'm talking 5,438,120 colors on the screen at one time!) The sound is incredible (Would you believe the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in a synthesizer!) The graphics put Star Wars to shame. I managed to traverse only the first level, which by the way is 2,345 screens wide and 1×10^5 screens high. Even so, I saw a three dimensional map of Disney World, the formation of the Earth from cometary fragments and a visit to the Alpha Centauri as seen through the eyes of a quark. I urge you not to miss this adventure, aptly named "Planet Missionary."

Until next month, so long from Mayhem Villa. OJ

HERB CODE



Bad Gags by the Bay

MEGA PRICES: Atari finally announced prices for the new Mega STs. Hang on to your wallets; prices start at \$1699 for a 2 meg monochrome system and go up to \$2599 for 4 megs and color.

Also, Atari is doing their best to discourage discounts on the systems. I'd recommend waiting 'til after Christmas when the prices might drop... About the Atari-Federated deal - all I want to know is: Will Fred Rated smash an Amiga 500 on the air? Stay tuned...

ITEMS FROM all over: According to my sources, the long awaited Microsoft Write for the Atari ST is done and ready to ship. What took Microsoft so long was that they had a very incompetent programmer working alone on the project. Maybe they'll give the guy the OS/2 project next! I hope you IBM PS/2 owners aren't holding your breaths... Also heard that Microsoft is advertising for programmers with GEM and 68000 experience. Hm, there's only one computer with that software and hardware...

BLITTERING IDIOT Dept: Apparently the long-awaited blitter chip is finally arriving in quantity. This is the famous bit-block transfer (contracted into 'blitter') device which speeds up memory transfer in the ST. The main purpose of this chip will be to speed up graphics operations, especially the slow screen redrawing. This should make GEM zoom. Since the chip design has been ready for over a year (an ST with a prototype blitter was shown at the Glendale Atari Fair last August), everybody was wondering what the delay was. Spies at Atari tell me that the original chip fabricator (who shall remain nameless, but whose initials are G.E.) went to a new manufacturing process last year, thereby fouling up the production schedule. Atari finally went to another vendor and had chips in three months... This is probably what delayed release of the Mega ST in the U.S. market. European Mega ST purchasers got machines without blitters (and probably without the revised operating system ROMS as well) and will have to have them upgraded when the new chips arrive... As for us old-time ST owners, when and how we get blitters for our computers is anybody's guess...

HERB'S HELPFUL Hints: The 3-D glasses that Sega is making for its new video game machine work great with CAD-3D! They plug into the Stereo-Tek adapter and work better than the standard Stereo-Tek glasses. This discovery thanks to Dave Powers at Software 1st in San Rafael... Strange de George, A.B.A.C.U.S.'s own technical services director, turned 30 last month. As those of us who grew up in the Sixties remember, "You can't trust anyone over thirty!" Don't worry George, we didn't trust you already... Our prez, Bill Zinn, went to George's birthday party and reportedly met enough Space Cadets there to start an Academy. Happy Birthday, George!

The wet look is back for men's hair. Castrol 10W-40, 2.99 per quart. Men's Toiletries (d. 257) - all Messy's except Southgate and Pruneridge.

Designer cola, new from Ralph Loren. Regular, cherry, diet. 4.99 for a six-pack. The Cellar (d. 999) - Downtown only.

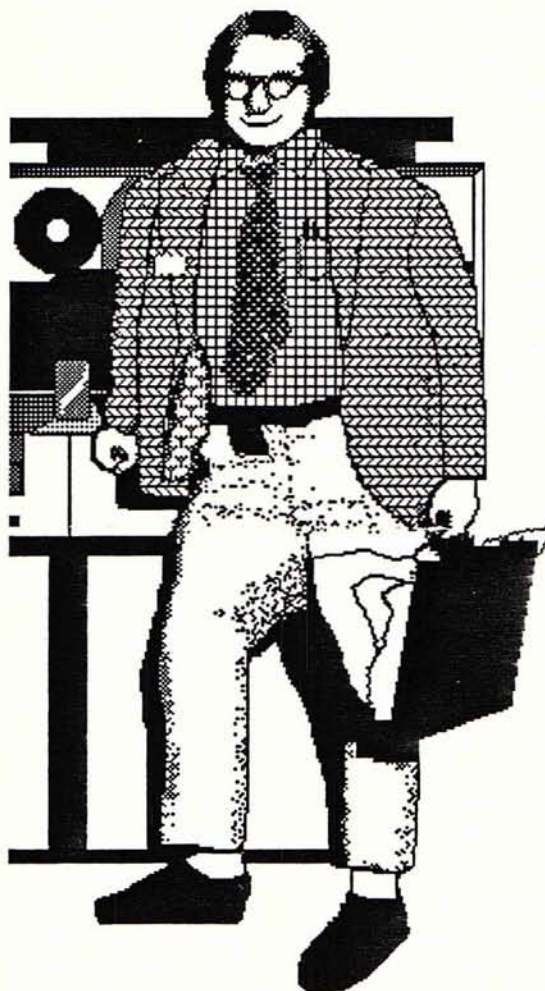
Really want to get out of that boring meeting? This fake pager is just for you! Turn it on and in 20 seconds it emits a series of beeps, making it sound like you're being paged for an important phone call. Now you can stride purposefully out of that meeting and head for the bar! Fakeout model 1536. 29.95. Electronics (d. 481).

Men's 100% polyester casual slacks. 49.99. Clodhopper brand thick-soled work shoes provide hours of comfort while you wait for your program to compile. 59.99. Menswear (d. 255).

messy*s presents

the hot new style for men this fall:

the computer nerd look.



Thick, horn-rimmed glasses give you that studious, intelligent look. Reg. 99.95, sale 79.95. Men's Eyewear (d. 265a).

Nubby herringbone tweed jacket in wool-polyester blend. 99.95. 100% cotton patterned shirt. Sale 24.95. Clip-on necktie. 14.95. Menswear (d. 255).

Plastic pocket protector. 3.99. Assorted felt-tip pens. Sale 1.19. Stationers (d. 263) - all Messy's except Corte Puluma.

Briefcase loaded with printout. Sansomite 2150, 79.95. Fine Luggage (d. 241).

All-cotton white socks are a visible sign of your good taste. 6.99 a pair. Menswear (d. 255).

Tired of that tiny laptop? Fed-up with that wimpy PC? Let Messy's put into the speed and power of an IBM Series 4381 mainframe (pictured behind). Reg 799,999.95, sale 499,999.95. Computers (d. 2FC) - Downtown, Westgate, Pruneridge, Pittsburg, Corte Puluma, Milpitas only.

messy*s CALIFORNIA

SHOP MOST MESSY'S MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 10 AM TO 9 PM. (MESSY'S DOWNTOWN OPEN 9:30 AM; SHOP MESSY'S NORTHGATE, EASTGATE, WESTGATE, WATERGATE AND PRUNERIDGE STORES 'TIL 9:47 PM; AND MESSY'S NORTHBRIDGE, STONERIDGE, SOUTHGATE AND BALDRIDGE 'TIL 10:15 PM). SHOP MESSY'S SATURDAY HOURS: MESSY'S CORTE PULUMA AND SACATAMA TO OPEN 'TIL 9:20 PM; DOWNTOWN, UPTOWN AND STONETOWN OPEN 'TIL 10 PM; BERZERKLEY 'TIL 2:45 AM.



THE NEOPHYTE EIGHT BITTER

by Alan Stancliff

This month and next we are going to cover three ways of getting ATARIWRITER PLUS to do some neat formatting tricks that are not so obvious to the beginner. We will assume that you know how to load in the program (boot up), get to the EDIT mode (choosing "C" or "E" from the main menu) and how to use the GLOBAL FORMAT feature. You should also know how to save your creation on disk and print it out on your printer. If you are not familiar with this, go to the ATARIWRITER PLUS manual and play with it for a while. For a software manual, it is remarkably clear.

Trick number one will be OUTDENTING. The meaning of this will be explained in a minute. Trick number two will how to get decimal points to line up when typing a table with columns of figures (useful in statistical typing). Trick number three will be how to switch the position of number columns in a table. With this tip we will be able to do things like place the third column of numbers where the second column of numbers was, reversing their order without retyping the individual numbers.

OUTDENTING

Outdenting is when you have the first line of a paragraph stick out further to the left than the rest of the paragraph. This is useful in creating resumes, numbered blocks of text and many other common applications. As an example, let us think of a resume where you have your left margin set at 5 and your right margin set at 75. Assume that you want the headings to start flush with the left margin but you want the text below to be five columns (spaces) to the right. This is maddeningly difficult to do by hand on ATARIWRITER PLUS because of the 40 column display. (ATARIWRITER PLUS actually displays only 38 columns when first loaded in although that can be changed. We call that the "default" value, meaning the value automatically in place when the program is first loaded.)

Suppose your resume is going to have the following topics: GOAL, EDUCATION, WORK HISTORY, PERSONAL ASSETS, and REFERENCES. You want each of these topic headings to stick out five spaces to the left and then the text below each heading to be indented. Here is what you do.

In your GLOBAL FORMAT menu, set the left margin L at 5 and the right margin R at 75. Type out the text of the resume, perhaps putting the headings into CAPS and UNDERLINE. When you have entered your text as you want it, go to the first heading, GOAL. Immediately after that word, enter a <CONTROL L> by pressing the Control key and the "L" key at the same

time. Then enter the number "5" and a space. The control code characters and numbers will not show in the printed resume (output) because they are commands to the printer. These commands to the printer are known as "embedded printer control commands". They change the left margin to "5".

Now press <OPTION P>. This puts you into the PRINT PREVIEW mode. Here you can scroll around and see how the text would look if you printed it out at that very moment.

While in the PRINT PREVIEW mode, note which is the first word on the second line i.e., the line following the one which begins with the word GOAL. Now go back to the EDIT mode (sometimes called the "editor") by pressing ESC. Find that word in the text. Suppose that it is the word "secondly".

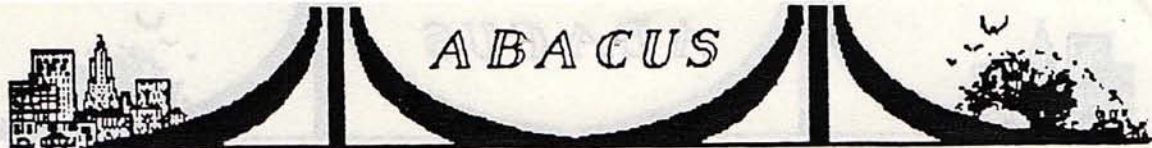
Right after the word "secondly" insert a <CONTROL L> and the number "10" and a space. Now go back to PRINT PREVIEW (by pressing <OPTION P>, remember?) and see what you get. The first line should be outdented five spaces and the rest of the text begins on column 11!

Although the word GOAL is outdented, the other topic headings still start flush at column 11 (because you set L at 10). The second topic is EDUCATION. So while in the EDIT mode, find the topic heading EDUCATION (which should be at the beginning of a new paragraph). Right after the word EDUCATION insert <OPTION> (L) and then the number "5".

Once again go to PRINT PREVIEW and you will see GOAL outdented, the text below it indented five spaces to the right, and then the word EDUCATION outdented along with all the following text outdented as well. This is not exactly what we wanted because the process has not gone far enough. So now we take the next step.

Look for the word that begins the line following the line in which EDUCATION appears. Supposing that word is "honors".

Go back to the EDIT mode by pressing ESC and find the word "honors". Right after the word "honors" insert <CONTROL L> and then the number "10" and a space. Once again the control characters and the numbers will not be printed or show up in the PRINT PREVIEW mode because they are "embedded printer control commands". Now if you go on to the PRINT PREVIEW, you will see GOAL and EDUCATION outdented with the text below each indented. The rest of the headings will be indented along with their text but by following the same process, you can outdent the rest of the headings. The effect will be balanced because L margin is really at 5 and R margin is at 75.

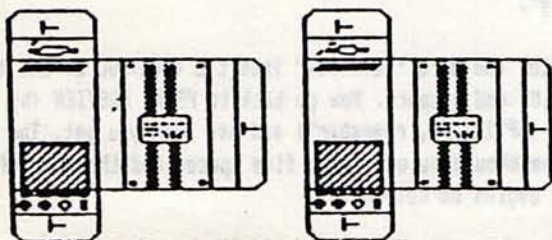


FOR SALE

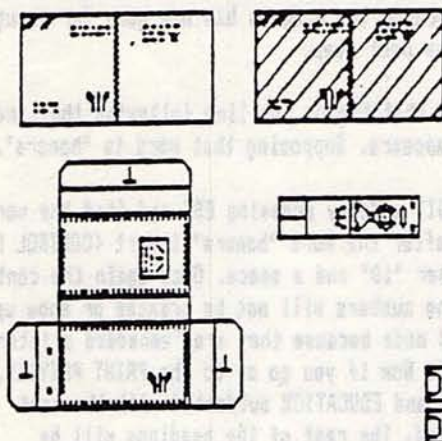
The best way of understanding all this is to actually try to set up a sample resume. Experiment with what I told you and if you have any questions, send them to the NEOPHYTE EIGHT BITTER c/o ABACUS, P.O. BOX 22212, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94112 or leave a question for me at ABACUS BBS (415) 587 8062. If I don't know the answer, or if you know a better answer than the one I put in this column, please let me know.

Next month we will cover the matter of tables of numbers, how to line up decimal points and interchange columns of numbers in a table.

The Mini ST

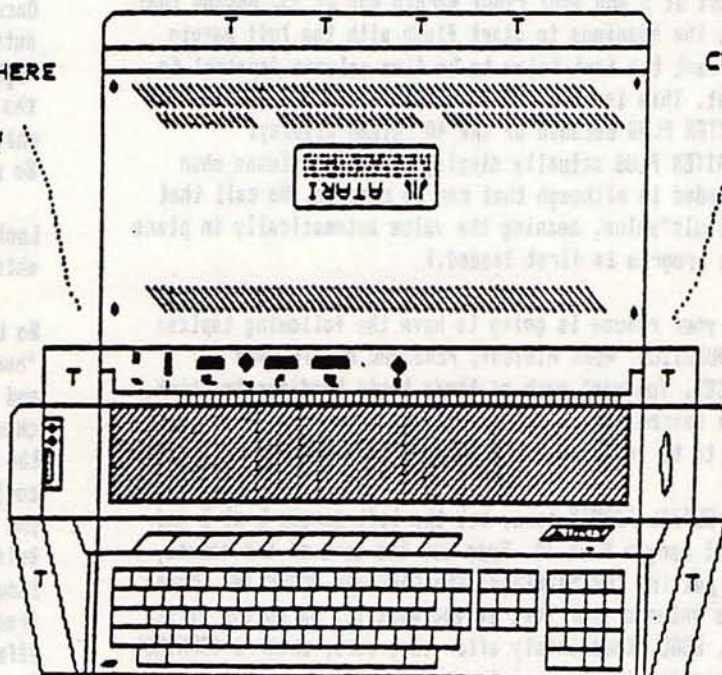


**A TINY ATARI ST
SYSTEM FOR YOU TO
CUT OUT AND GLUE
TOGETHER...**



CUT HERE

CUT HERE

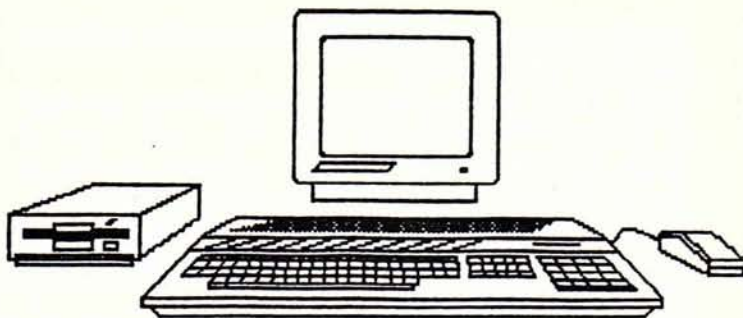
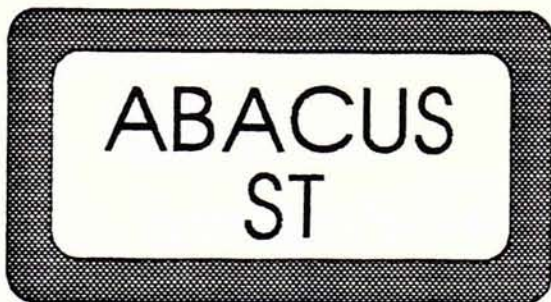


It's hard to beat the pulling power of the ABACUS Newsletter if you've got something to sell. My ST went to a guy in Morgan Hill, but I got calls from as far away as Lawrence, Kansas.

Ralph Howard has a complete 8-bit system for sale: 1200XL, 850 interface with printer and modem cables, 300 baud Mini-Manual modem, 1010 cassette drive, and four cartridges (Atariwriter, BASIC, 2 games). All for \$150 or best offer. That should be the bargain of the month. Ralph also has an Omni-reader optical character reader. This beast reads printed text and then you can use it just like you had typed it in. The reader works through the serial port just like a modem. It works with the ST and the 6-bit. \$150 buys it. Give Ralph a call at (415) 666-1541.

Eric Clausen still has the 850 interface left from his 6-bit system. It's complete with printer and modem cables. Only \$75 or best offer. Eric is at (415) 929-6510. By the way, Eric donated a stack of 6-bit books to the club. Ed Ness is keeping them with the magazine library. We welcome more book donations.

Bob Walsh may still have the Epson EX600 printer for sale, complete with the color print option. He wants \$400, which sounds real good to me. (415) 564-9122.



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Well, here we are again with another short ST section. Thank's to Warren for contributing another of his unique humorous columns. I was suggesting to him that we make the entire newsletter a satire from now on. After all, it would be kind of appropriate when you consider how the Atari world operates most of the time. Maybe that is why we all stick around, for the surprise and suspense.

Anyway, Dean Brunette has indicated that he will be contributing a regular hardware column. And with numerous new products for our ST's about to flood our favorite stores (I can dream, can't I?), upcoming issues should have a lot more substance. Of course we will not drop our sarcasm and rumors - that would take all of the fun out of it.

As usual, please feel free to contribute articles and reviews. Who knows, maybe your article may get reprinted accross the nation in other newsletters as several of Warren's have.

-Rob Re

RANDOM THOUGHTS

by Rob Re

ATARI "MEGA" SLOW TO RELEASE MACHINES - Heard the one about taking a slow boat from China? Well, I guess that is the one Atari is using to get their new Mega ST's to the U.S. market. Even Commodore got their Amiga 2000 out first! At least for the first time all Atari reps seem to agree on the same month for delivery, October, so it may be a good sign that we will see the new machines soon. The laser printer should also arrive right on the heels of the Mega. Let's hope Atari has rethought their pricing on the printer and lowered it so that it is a good value relative to some of the new lower cost lasers.

WATCH THOSE DISK DRIVES - It has been going around that Atari is shipping some ST's with drives from yet another vender, and the new drives will not read past track 80. When you realize that some copy protection schemes use track 81, I think you begin to see the problem. What is

Atari's attitude on the problem. I am told that they are saying 'we told you it was an 80 track drive'. What do I say? To those software companies still using copy protection these days, gee, I hope you have a 'backup' scheme.

THE MODEMS ARE HERE, THE MODEMS ARE HERE

- Atari's \$99 1200 baud modem is finally in the stores. With other inexpensive modems out and 2400 baud modems dropping in price fast, it looks like Atari may be a little too late. Of course 8-bit users should find it more of a good deal since it reportedly does not need a 1050 interface. Then again, if traditional Atari discounting takes place and it is truly Hayes compatible, it still may be a good deal. At least it will be color compatible with ST's.

YET ANOTHER STWRITER VERSION APPEARS -

Just when I pluck down my \$12 for the latest START magazine so that I can have version 1.75 of STWriter, I hear that copies of 2.something are floating around. This newest version is quasi GEM. Apparently you can switch back and forth between the standard STWriter interface and drop down menus. It is not 'what you see is what you get', and Event_Multi calls are not used. The reason for the latter to avoid the inevitable slowing down of the program. As a result, programs like Thunder will not run with STWriter. I am not complaining. After all, what do you want for public domain? With all of the current word processors, I still use STWriter almost exclusively.

WILDEST RUMOR OF THE MONTH -

In the latest issue of Info World, Atari is finally mentioned. (Since my subscription has not yet lapsed, I still thumb through it weekly just to see if they accidentally mention Atari or ST.) In Robert X. Cringely's rumor and gossip column, he hints at a secret pact between Atari and (are you sitting down?) Stephen Jobs' Next Computers. The rumor hints of sharing of custom graphics chips between the two companies and the first product to be seen at Atari's Comdex booth. This one I find kind of hard to swallow. I mean, can you picture Jobs wearing his bow tie sitting across the bargaining table from Jack Tramiel puffing on his cigar?

ABACUS MEETINGS

ABACUS meets (usually) on the first Saturday of each month at The 19TH AVENUE DINER, 1201 19th Ave. (right next to Golden Gate Park), San Francisco. Attendance is free and open to everyone. We meet on the 2nd floor. 10:00-1:00 for 400/800/XL/XE owners. 12:00-3:00 for ST owners. Please park on the street. DO NOT PARK IN THE DINER'S LOT. (Call 753-8463 for meeting details.)

ABACUS MEMBERSHIP

Dues are \$15 per year. This includes the newsletter, discounts on group buys of hardware and software, low cost blank disks, and low cost public domain software. You do not need to be a member to attend meetings.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Articles are preferred on disk or via the BBS. If printed, they should be in dark print; 3.5 inch columns; 15-16 characters per inch; 60 characters wide.

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